

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 247286

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 H-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

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EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P- MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

----- 029170

R 172010Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 247286

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USMISSION GENEVA
CINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 247286

E.O. 11152: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING
GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
OCTOBER 16, 1975:

Q. NOW THAT YOU ARE RELEASING THE SECRETARY'S LETTER TO
THE PIKE PEOPLE, DON'T YOU THINK YOU COULD ALSO RELEASE
THE LEGAL ADVISOR'S EVALUATION OF THE COMMITMENTS, UNDER-
TAKINGS -- ESPECIALLY AS IT'S NOW IN THE PRESS?

A. I THINK THAT WE ARE MIXING APPLES AND ORANGES HERE, IN
THE FIRST PLACE. WSL, I DO NOT THINK THE FACT THAT WE
ARE RELEASING THIS UNCLASSIFIED LETTER THAT WAS SENT TO
CHAIRMAN PIKE HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH MONROE LEIGH'S
LETTER.

Q. I WITHDRAW THE LINKAGE, PLEASE. JUST COMMENT ON THE
SECOND PART.

A. NO. I KNOW OF NO PLANS FOR US TO RELEASE MONROE
LEIGH'S LETTER, AND THINK THE SECRETARY SPOKE ON THAT AT
GREAT LENGTH IN HIS OPEN HEARING; AND I CANNOT ADD ANYTHI
NG TO THAT.

Q. IS THE ADMINISTRATION PLANNING ON SUBMITTING THE
FOREIGN AID BILL TO CONGRESS NEXT WEEK?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 247286

A. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE TIMING IS ON THE SUBMISSION.
I WILL SEE WHAT I CAN FIND OUT FOR YOU. I REMEMBER--I
GUESS IT WAS ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO NOW -- THE SECRETARY
DID SAY THAT HE EXPECTED THAT WE WOULD SUBMIT THE
ECONOMIC AID PACKAGE IN ABOUT A MONTH. SO YOU MAY BE
RIGHT, BUT I JUST DO NOT KNOW THE EXACT DATE.

Q. IS THERE A COMMENT FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON WHAT

IS GOING ON IN THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ON THE
RESOLUTION EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM?

A. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THAT AT THIS TIME; I JUST DO
NOT HAVE ANYTHING ON IT. (SEE POSTED ANSWER AT END TEL.)

Q. ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT, TWO QUESTIONS. THERE IS A
REPORT THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS CONTACTED SEVERAL
INTERESTED PARTIES IN AN EFFORT TO EASE THE TENSIONS,
SUPPOSED TENSIONS, ALONG THE GOLAN. CAN YOU COMMENT ON
THAT REPORT?

A. I THINK THAT THE TICKER THAT I SAW HAD TO DO WITH
CONSULTATIONS TO EASE TENSIONS BECAUSE OF THE UN MANDATE
ENDING ON NOVEMBER 30. I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT.
THERE IS NOTHING TO THAT REPORT AS FAR AS I KNOW. BUT
WITH REGARD TO THE SITUATION IN THE AREA, OF COURSE, WE
DO HAVE THE PROBLEM OF THE SITUATION IN LEBANON, WHICH
IS EXTREMELY DELICATE. AND THERE WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH
VARIOUS PARTIES, WITH ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED, BUT
WE ARE NOT TAKING ANY PARTICULAR INITIATIVE HERE. IT IS
A SUBJECT THAT IS OF CONCERN TO EVERYBODY IN THE AREA.

Q. WHAT PARTIES ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT/ ARE YOU TALKING
ABOUT LEBANESE POLITICAL FACTIONS?

A. NO, NO, I'M SORRY. BY PARTIES I MEANT THE COUNTRIES
CONCERNED IN THE AREA. AND I THINK YOU MAY RECALL UP IN
NEW YORK WITH REGARD TO OUR ATTITUDE VIS-A-VIS THE
SITUATION IN LEBANON WE DISCUSSED -- FOLLOWING THE
MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF LEBANON, FOREIGN
MINISTER TAGLA, I PUT OUT A VERY SHORT STATEMENT, AND
THAT STILL STANDS, THAT WE CONSIDER
LEBANON ONE OF OUR
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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 247286

CLOSEST FRIENDS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND WE HAVE A
SPECIAL INTEREST IN ITS CONTINUING INDEPENDENCE AND ITS
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, ITS NATIONAL UNITY, AND COHESION.

BUT, AS I STARTED OUT BY SAYING, THE SITUATION IS
DELICATE, VERY DELICATE, AND I THINK AT THIS PARTICULAR
TIME THE LESS SAID FROM THE OUTSIDE THE BETTER. WE
HOPE THAT THE DEVELOPMENTS WILL EVOLVE IN SUCH A WAY
THAT PEACE CAN BE MAINTAINED THERE. THAT'S ABOUT ALL I
HAVE FOR YOU.

Q. YOU ARE REFERRING TO THE SITUATION IN LEBANON AND
NOT THE SITUATION ON THE GOLAN?

A. THAT'S RIGHT. NO, I STARTED OUT BY SAYING THAT THAT

PARTICULAR STORY THERE IS NOTHING TO IT. I THINK THERE
MAY BE SOME CONFUSION IN WHOEVER WROTE THE STORYM

Q. THE SECOND QUESTION IS, THERE ARE OTHER REPORTS TODAY
THAT LAST FRIDAY THE PENTAGON NOTIFIED CONGRESS OF ITS
INTENSION TO SELL TO KUWAIT SOME 300 SIDEWINDER
MISSILES. AND UNDER THE NELSON-BINGHAM AMENDMENT,
CONGRESS HAS TWENTY CALENDAR DAYS TO CONSIDER THAT, AND
THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE ON THE HILL NOW WHO THINK IT WAS A
SIGN OF BAD FAITH THAT AT THE START OF A TEN-DAY RECESS
THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD COME FORWARD WITH THAT LETTER OF
OFFER. DO YOU THINK THAT'U A SIGN OF BAD FAITH --
SNEAKY?

A. NUMBER ONE, I DID NOT KNOW THAT ANY SUCH THING HAD
GONE UP FROM THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT. BUT FRANKLY, WE(LL
GO BACK TO THE CASE OF THE HAWK MISSILES. YOU REMEMBER
THERE WAS A RECESS AND THE LETTER OF OFFER KEPT BEING
RESUBMITTED, ETC. AND EVEN THOUGH I HAVEN'T TALKED TO
THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, JOE LAITIN OR ANYBODY ELSE,
A975 5#8 , I AM SURE THAT THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT IS
NOT TRYING TO BE SNEAKY OR UNDERHANDED HERE. IF
NECESSARY, I THINK THEY'LL EXTEND THE LETTER OF OFFER SO
THAT THE CONGRESS HAS A FULL OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THIS
DURING A PERIOD, TWENTY-DAY PERIOD, WHEN IN SESSION. THAT
JUST SEEM OBVIOUS TO ME.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 247286

(SUBSEQUENTLY THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS POSTED IN THE
STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS ROOM FOR NEWSMEN:

A. AS STATED BY THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, LEONARD
GARMENT, ON OCTOBER 3, 1975 IN DISCUSSIONS OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S COMMITTEE III, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS
STRONGLY OPPOSED TO EFFORTS TO LINK ZIONISM WITH
RACISM. HE INDICATED THAT WE WOULD VOTE AGAINST ANY

RESOLUTION CONTAINING SUCH A LINKAGE. THAT REMAINS OUR
STRONG POSITION.)

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